

REIA General Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2019 Inn at Wecoma

Board members present: Janet Knipe, David Jamieson, Jayne Robinson, Martin Rollins, Marie McFarland; absent: Patti Kroen, Cindy Thompson. Also present: invited guest speakers Lincoln City Police Department Chief Jerry Palmer, Alison Robertson, Director Lincoln City Urban Renewal Agency, and Jodi Mescher, Lincoln City Economic Development Project. Attendance: 28 members + 1 member-to-renew + 1 non-member + 3 guest speakers = 33 total.

President Janet called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM and welcomed attendees. This is Janet's first meeting as President; she expressed her thanks for this opportunity and stated that she is looking forward to working with all of us for the good of our beautiful neighborhood. The Sign-In Sheet was circulated. Janet thanked those who brought food pantry donations, and Joe Hinton for always posting the REIA Meeting sign on Logan Road.

Alethia Ward moved to **approve the minutes from the September 14, 2019 meeting**. John Hering seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's World –In Patti's absence, David gave a brief summary of current REIA finances and the following **updated numbers as of the end of October**: year-to-date balance in all accounts: \$24,782.23; year-to-date expenses: \$1,990.33 (20.9% of total budget); total income to date: \$659.68, which includes \$307.00 in dues and \$54.00 in donations. Jim Stovall moved to accept the report; Joe Hinton seconded, motion carried.

Janet introduced our first Guest Speaker, Lincoln City Police Department Chief Jerry Palmer. Chief Palmer has served as LCPD Chief since July 2018 and brings **nearly 30 years of Oregon law enforcement experience** to this position. The Chief "bragged on (his) crew and community," saying how pleased he is to work with such a great group who bring experience and dedication to the job every day. He expressed thanks to City Council and the City Manager for their continued support of PD efforts. He stated that by last December (2018), recruitment was almost complete and the **department is at full strength for the first time in a decade**. LCPD personnel are involved in major drug busts and the break-up of large burglary rings in addition to every-day traffic and transient control. The 911 Call Center, with 8 full-time staff, operates 24/7. The Chief announced other updates: the Canine Unit program, funded by community donations, is less than \$20,000 away from its proposed start-up date in early 2020; all officers will soon wear body cameras; and patrol cars are returning to their former colors of black and white. Chief Palmer wants to put "faces to the uniforms" of his staff and feels that the PD is more involved than ever before in the community. Examples of this involvement include the Citizens' Academy (~20 people/year); Neighborhood Watch with RE Board Member Marie McFarland; National Night Out; Blue Christmas; and officers delivering Thanksgiving meals to shut-ins. The

Chief reported that during the months of August, September and October 2018, the PD received 300 calls from the RE neighborhood; 268 were criminal in nature and 32 reported traffic issues mainly on Logan Road. When asked, the Chief said he did not consider this number to be high. **Chief Palmer reiterated that when we see something, we should call it in, no matter how small. We are not wasting their time, it is their job to respond. "If you see something, say something!"** The Chief responded to questions and comments from the group including those about the **warming shelter near-by and increased transient activity** in the RE neighborhood (shelter's conditional use permit request will be considered by the Planning Commission at the November 19th meeting, public is encouraged to come and participate, PD reps will be there, Councilor Hinton stated that City Council has been working on the homeless issue in the community for over three years, wanted a place that had as many services as possible near-by, over 50% of "transients" are now considered homeless residents of LC); **street/private property lighting** (Chief feels it adds safety but needs to not negatively impact neighbors); the **Neighborhood Watch program** (additional eyes and ears in the neighborhood add safety for residents); **fireworks issue** (Chief feels if tickets were written officers would have time-consuming reports and other duties related to a crime that deplete department resources, feels that many more violators are reached if only warnings are given); **speed signs** on Logan Road (thank you!). Due to time constraints, the Chief's presentation was ended; it is hoped he will return in the spring to continue the dialog. Janet expressed the appreciation of all of us for Chief Palmer's time, expertise, and service to our community.

Janet introduced the **second and third Guest Speakers, Alison Robertson, Director of the Lincoln City Urban Renewal Agency, and Jodi Mescher, of the Lincoln City Economic Development Project.** Urban renewal is a program under state law and implemented locally that allows for the concentrated use of property tax revenue to upgrade certain designated areas of a city or county. **Property taxes do not increase because of the program, they are reallocated.** Alison mentioned the use of tax increment financing (tif) to finance any urban renewal improvements, similar to bond financing, only it reallocates new tax dollars from new tax growth. Examples of urban renewal projects include construction or improvement of public facilities, streetscape improvements, and updating sewer or water pipes. **We would likely not see any such improvements for at least five years because the money needs to be raised first.** Detailed handouts were made available. An Advisory Committee has been convened to help guide the **preparation of an urban renewal plan for the RE/Villages area.** The Committee is chaired by Councilor Hinton; Janet and Patti are members. The job of the committee is to determine the boundary of the area, set goals and objectives, and outline projects and programs to be considered. Public input is an important part of the decision-making process. **Two Community Open Houses have been scheduled where input can be given: January 7 and February 18, 2020 (details to follow). You may also email Alison (ARobertson@LincolnCity.org) or Jodi (JMescher@Lincoln City.org).** The Committee will terminate upon completion of the task either with adoption or rejection of an Urban

Renewal Plan for RE/Villages by the City Council. This is expected to happen in late summer/early fall 2020. Updates on the project will be posted to the City of Lincoln City website. Janet stressed the importance of resident involvement in this process and thanked Alison and Jodi for their time and expertise.

City Government News – City Councilor Diana Hinton reported that the **transfer of Logan Road from the county to the city** is moving forward. City Council has voted on a two-part solution in which the county will transfer Logan Road to the city with money to continue maintenance projects already begun; and the City Attorney will look into any possible liabilities regarding this transaction.

Announcements/Homeowner Forum - Jayne called attention to the **Holiday Happy Hour** flyers on the tables and asked everyone to mark their calendars and plan to attend Saturday, December 14, 5-7PM, here in the Breakfast Room, Inn at Wecoma. Attendees are asked to bring an appetizer to share and to RSVP to her by December 7. REIA will furnish wine, juice and water.

Alethia Ward reported that **SOLVE's fall clean-up** on September 21 was a success; 115 volunteers collected 85 pounds of trash from the beach! Thank you to all who participated!

Janet announced that the **Public Policy Committee** is looking for one or two more volunteers from the membership. The committee monitors VRD compliance and enforcement and is tracking the fireworks issue, among other items important to RE. Contact her with questions. **Janet reminded us about the joint work session for City Manager/City Council on December 2, 2019, 9AM. They will be discussing the development of a new fireworks policy.** The public is welcome to attend but no input will be taken at that time.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Holiday Happy Hour (in lieu of December General Meeting) Saturday, December 14, 5-7PM Inn at Wecoma.

No January General Meeting.

Next General Membership Meeting – February 8, 2020, 11AM, Inn at Wecoma.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jayne Robinson, Secretary